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mgw

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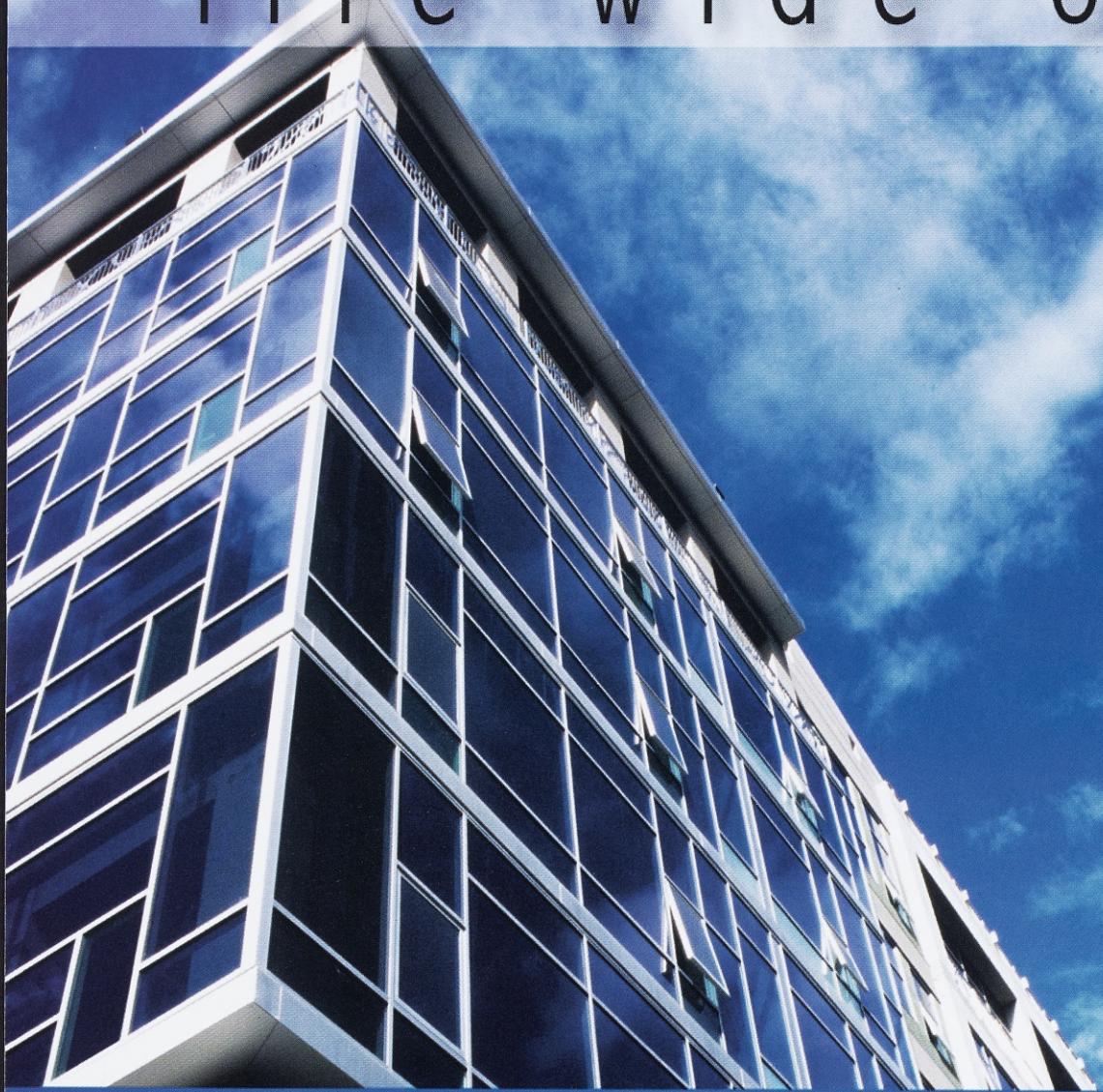
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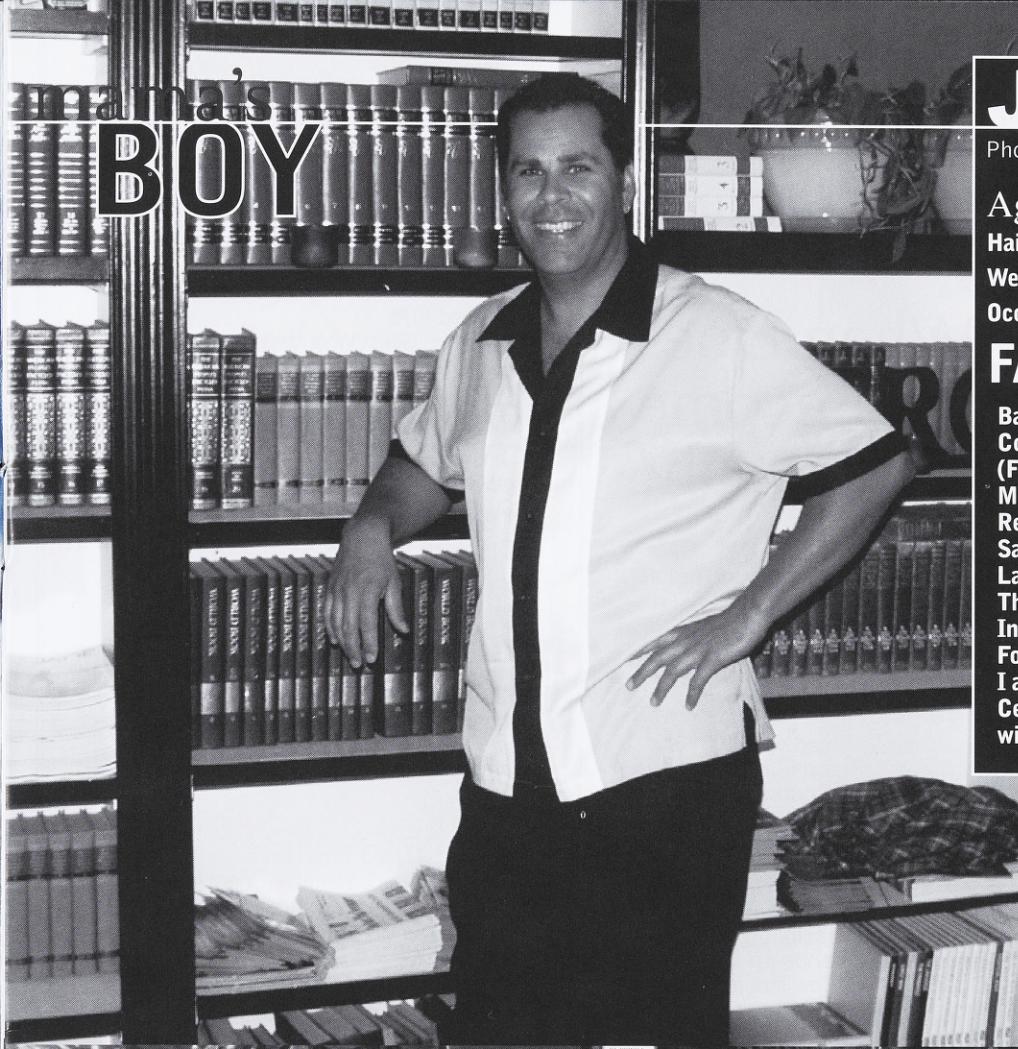
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John

Photographed @ Club 21 by Rich Jones

Age: 39 & Lovin' It Sign: Gemini

Hair: Black Eyes: Blue Height: 6'2"

Weight X-Large Petite Lived in Sac: 5 Years

Occupation: Asst. Manager

FAVORITES

Bar:

Corner of 20th & K
(Faces)

Music: All

Restaurant:

Sage Room at Harvey's

Lake Tahoe

Things: Gambling

Indulgence:

Food & Wine—

I am Italian

Celebs to hang out

with: Will Ferrell

Thing About Sac: It's

Close to Everything

Greatest Fear:

My Family Finding Out
& Spending my Life
Alone

Greatest Challenge
facing gay people
today: Hate Crimes

Work out tips:
Go Big or Go Home

Megan

Photographed @ FACES Balcony by Rich Jones

Age: Twelveteen Sign: Virgo

Hair: Chaka Kahn Eyes: Chocolate Brown

Height: 5'5" Weight: Voluptuous

Lived in Sac: 30 years

Occupation: Supervisor

FAVORITES

Bar:

Anywhere Shanie is at

Music:

Eclectic

Restaurant:

Tamayas

Things:

Tattoos, Shoes

& Say What

Indulgence:

Crème Brûle

Celebs to hang out

with:

Jack White with a side
of Jimi Hendrix

Thing About Sac:
Therapy at Olde Tyme

Tattoo

Greatest Fear:

Puke

Greatest Challenge
facing gay people
today:

Bush and anything

Mid-Western

Work out tips:

Don't eat so much
food!

mama's GIRL





Reflection

When Does Enough Become Enough?

As some of you may be aware I recently turned 30 years old, although I feel as if I actually turned 40. As one ages, they typically reflect back on their life reviewing accomplishments, remembering the mistakes and finding ways to move forward in achieving self-proclaimed goals. In the last two years of being the Executive Publisher of MGW I have realized how much I have grown and accomplished as a person—all the while consistently being reminded by my peers of my “failures”.

In the 12 years I have been in Sacramento and been involved with MGW I never truly realized the amount of healing our community needs until lately. Competition in business is healthy, however, when it becomes personal and you spend most of your time fighting off ridiculous attacks that come your way, when do you decide that enough is enough? Do you stand firm and stand by your beliefs, ethics and morals? Or do you simply give in and become a piece of clay constantly being re-molded to better accommodate the desires of others?

When one grows tired of the endless battles and constant attacks on their character and who they are as a person, when do they find resolution? Being a business owner is never simple, no amount of education or hands on experience can ever prepare you for the journey that lies ahead. For we now live in a world that is constantly under fire—terrorism constantly looming, hate crimes rising politics being thrown around to the point of causing major migraines and friends and loved ones dying of illnesses both mental and physical. What is the purpose of all this hate? Are we not all human? We all breathe the same air, laugh when we are happy, cry when we are sad. When a mother holds her newborn child in her arms do they not all feel joy regardless of their race or sexual orientation?

These, as well as many other questions, haunt me when I sleep. Maybe one person can't change the world, but is it wrong to want to help? When you reach your hand out in support only to have it smacked repeatedly, do you endure the pain and continue or simply step aside and let the destruction continue? I see so many in our community standing on the sidelines attacking each other. If I still have one ounce of self-respect left, I have to say to my community, “grow up!” Be a part of the solution and not part of the problem. If we can't even love ourselves despite our differences how can we ever expect to achieve the equality and respect we so desperately claim to seek?

It is apparent by these words that I have many issues to resolve and choices to make, both personally and professionally. How I became so angry is very obvious to those who know me well and have been by my side for the past couple of years. I stand before you a man, a father, a brother, a publisher, an entertainment coordinator, and hopefully, a friend. But more importantly I am human.

It is for many reasons that I have decided to devote more of my time to reclaiming what has been lost or damaged through the last several years. Mom Guess What Newspaper has returned and will continue to grow with leaps and bounds. MGW Magazine returns after a short hiatus to restructure our content, design and focus. It will also now have a new schedule, coming out every other month. It is my hope that with the future of MGW, regardless of who runs it, prints it or owns it, the community will once again see this historical publication for what it is. Your voice!

Your input, whether negative or positive, is and always will be what drives the content in our publications. You may not always like what you read, but to stand behind our ethics as journalists we need and will write about issues concerning our community—the good, the bad and even the ugly. We will not bow down to those who wish to control the media, to silence us from writing articles because it may offend a friend of a friend. And to each and every one of you I must plead with you; stand your ground, fight the battles that need to be fought and support your community regardless of personal opinions. For this is the only way we will all survive, together as one.

Jeffry A. Davis
Executive Publisher

mgw

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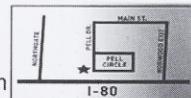
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Exes & Ohs

Exes & Ohs, television's first-ever scripted dramedy about lesbians, is a breakthrough half-hour series that's been described as *Sex and the City* meets *Ally McBeal*. It has humor, it has heart, and —of course—it has lesbians.

Set in Seattle, the series follows the ups and downs of five lesbian friends. At the center of the group is Jennifer Butler, a smart, single documentary filmmaker with a vivid fantasy life (which we see) and a floundering career (which we also see). Jennifer just wants to find Ms. Right... but first she must navigate the various rules of lesbian life, most of which she learns the hard way—and each of which she shares with the viewer.

Fortunately, Jennifer's surrogate family is always there to help. They include: Sam, her best friend, a sexy commitment-phobe who flips real estate almost as fast as she flips women; Chris and Kris, a long-term lesbian couple who are trying to start a family even as they expand their online pet accessory business; and Crutch, a young singer/songwriter who wants to be taken seriously by the rest of the group but first has some growing up to do.

Together, this tight-knit group of friends helps each other survive singlehood, couplehood... and one another.

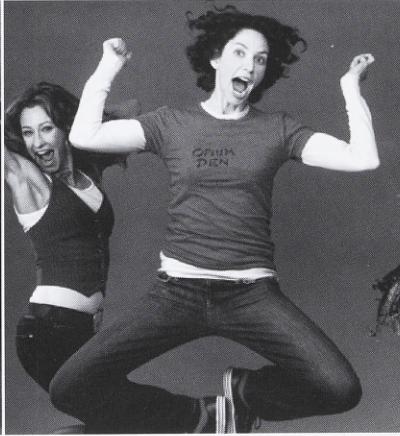
Exes & Ohs features a stellar cast of established and emerging actresses, including series co-creator and writer Michelle Paradise (Rodney, George Lopez), as well as Marnie Alton (The Twilight Zone, Tru Calling), Megan Cavanagh (A League of Their Own, Miss Congeniality 2), Angela Featherstone (The Wedding Singer, The Guardian), and Heather

Matarazzo (Welcome to the Dollhouse, The Princess Diaries).

Based on her short film *The Ten Rules: A Lesbian Survival Guide*, Michelle Paradise stars in, writes, and executive produces the series. Emmy® nominee and Golden Globe® winner Bill Grundfest (writer/producer *Mad About You*) developed the project for television and serves as executive producer. Lee Friedlander (Girl Play) also executive produces and directed the pilot episode.

The series features the work of directors Mina Shum (Noah's Arc), Monika Mitchell (Robson Arms), and Gary Harvey (Whistler), each of whom brings a unique flair to the smart—and sometimes wildly offbeat—material. Their work, in combination with the talents of highly respected cinematographer Tony Westman (Dead Like Me, The 4400), has resulted in a show that is funny, dramatic, visually elegant, and unlike anything else currently on television.

Exes & Ohs, a U.S./Canada co-production for Logo/MTV Networks and Showcase, was shot almost entirely in Vancouver. Production was managed by Toronto-based Blueprint Productions, which is known for its work on projects such as Whistler, The Best Years, Iggy Arbuckle, and 'Til Death Do Us Part. Exes & Ohs is the second Logo series, following Noah's Arc, to shoot in Canada with Blueprint Productions.



ABOUT LOGO

Logo is the ad-supported network targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) viewers, launched by MTV Networks. The network launched June 30, 2005 with more than one thousand hours of content and has approximately 27 million subscribers across the United States. Logo provides LGBT audiences with a place where they can see themselves and be themselves through a mix of original and acquired entertainment programming that is authentic, smart and inclusive. Logo joins Viacom's roster of popular and highly targeted cable networks which includes MTV, Comedy Central, BET, and Spike TV.



Team G.L.A.M. hits the road to raise awareness for missing children in the Fireball Run Rally

Speeding across the finish line of the Fireball Run Rally in Los Angeles last Saturday, Team G.L.A.M. (Gay and Lesbian Automotive Maniacs) took second in the luxury-class division of the cross-country road race benefiting the Child Rescue Network. Led by openly gay, 14-year racing veteran Evan Darling, and CEO and founder of Gaywheels.com, Joe LaMuraglia, the pair drove their 2007 Saab 9-3 Aero convertible across the country, securing one of the best times in the 46-car road race.

The first-ever out gay rally team, sponsored by GLEE.com (Gay, Lesbian, & Everyone Else, social-networking site), Saab Automobiles USA, and Gaywheels.com, hit the road to raise money and awareness for missing children. The car served as a mobile milk carton for Jonah Ferrell, the seven-year-old boy from West Virginia who has been missing since May.

Despite facing many hardships on the road, from torrential downpours to homophobic chatter picked up by a fellow Fireball team on their CB radio, Team G.L.A.M. stayed strong and had a great finish in Los Angeles.

"From the start, this was a pretty unusual race," said Darling. "In addition to the lack of sleep, and having to face negative stereotypes while fighting for a great cause, we were up against some very competitive drivers and cars. We picked up our Saab 9-3 straight from the showroom floor and it handled better than most the cars specifically designed for this type of racing. Both the car and the team really hit the mark on performance."

"We'd like to thank GLEE.com and Saab for their generous support of Team G.L.A.M. We were thrilled to spread the word about

GLEE.com as we traveled across the United States. With a tagline of 'gay, lesbian and everyone else' it is obvious that our goal of promoting inclusiveness in society is aligned with GLEE.com's mission," said LaMuraglia.

GLEE.com, the social-networking site that launched seven months ago has become a major online hub for the entire GLBT community, opening a range of experiences and professional growth opportunities for users. With Fireball Run marking their first foray into sports, GLEE.com also has partnerships with the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce; The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center; Music with a Twist and Outfest.

"As gays continue to make headway in sports, GLEE.com is furthering that cause and taking it to sports like rally racing and race-car driving, which traditionally haven't embraced the community," said Parker Ray, Site Director for GLEE.com. "At GLEE.com, we're all about breaking stereotypes and if we can do that while supporting a good cause and tearing up the roads, it's even better."

Team G.L.A.M.'s performance won the attention of Fireball's Organizer and Founder J. Sanchez.

"Evan and Joe proved themselves to be serious competitors in the race and earned the respect of all the other Fireball teams," Sanchez says. "When outsiders made threats against Team G.L.A.M., everyone came to their defense, even teams that you wouldn't have expected. By the end of the race, we were all like family."

For full details on the trip, visit gaywheels.com/teamglam.htm, where you can read Joe and Evan's daily posts from the road.



GLEE.com (Gay. Lesbian. & Everyone Else) officially launched in February 2007 as the first LGBT social- and professional-networking site. As the newest site from Community Connect Inc., GLEE.com enhances the online communities for ethnic and niche audiences.

With more than 18 million members, Community Connect Inc. is the 5th largest US social networking property/publisher, measured in page views (Comscore Media Metrix June 2007). CCI's proprietary technology platform provides GLEE.com members with the most user-friendly tools to connect with their community and discuss culturally relevant content.

Since launching, GLEE.com has attracted tens of thousands of members and has sponsored over 25 events. GLEE.com currently has partnerships with the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association, Outfest, Instinct Magazine and Servicemembers Legal Defense Network—just to name a few.

GLEE.com and (NGLCC)

GLEE.com (Gay. Lesbian. & Everyone Else) partnered with The National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC) to bring together Web-savvy LGBT professionals on GLEE.com with the largest LGBT business development and economic advocacy organization in the world—the NGLCC. The NGLCC facilitates communication between LGBT business owners and entrepreneurs and helps to connect these individuals with Corporate America. Connecting the Online and Offline World.

"The partnership will empower the LGBT community and provide a wealth of resources and opportunities," said Parker Ray, Site Manager of GLEE.com.

On GLEE.com, members are invited to set up a Personal Page to connect socially—but they're also encouraged to set up a Professional Profile to network with other business owners, colleagues, entrepreneurs, professional organizations, and professionals from a variety of fields and industries.

"The NGLCC is a nationally recognized, established clearinghouse of ideas and information for and between businesses and organizations. We chose to partner with GLEE.com because of their impressive technology platform and multitude of user-generated content and forums that our members can use and benefit from in the workplace," said Chance Mitchell, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the NGLCC.

GLEE.com has an extensive national reach, and in addition, many GLEE.com groups will be identified by specific regions, cities, and even neighborhoods, creating an opportunity for both GLEE.com members and NGLCC-partnered

organizations to connect and network on a local level.

GLEE.com members can now connect with the estimated 1.4 million LGBT owned businesses in the U.S. that the NGLCC represents.

GLEE.com and Newfest

NewFest, New York City's premier LGBT film organization, has teamed up with GLEE.com (Gay. Lesbian. & Everyone Else.) to showcase GLEE.com's brand-new custom Video Channel, which will debut clips from this year's festival. This partnership marks the first time a gay social-networking site has offered a film festival the opportunity to create an extensive online community and offer integrated video functionality in order to enhance the NewFest film festival experience. GLEE.com will serve as the hub for NewFest's network of film industry veterans, newcomers and festival attendees to continue their discussion about the festival's offerings—including features, shorts and events—online.

Participants will have the rare opportunity to interact with filmmakers and a multitude of festival-goers outside of the theater.

Since its inception 19 years ago, NewFest has showcased some of the biggest names in LGBT Cinema. Its longstanding heritage in the film community is evidenced by past world premieres, including *Paris is Burning*, and the NYC premieres of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* and *Strangers with Candy*. This year's film festival, running from May 31-June 10, promises to be the best one yet, book-ended with the opening-night premier of *The Picture of Dorian Gray* starring 7th Heaven's David Gallagher,

and the closing-night screening of *Save Me with Chad Allen and Robert Gant*. In the past, attendees have included Madonna, Sarah Jessica Parker, Matthew Broderick, Margaret Cho, Ally Sheedy and Amy Sedaris.

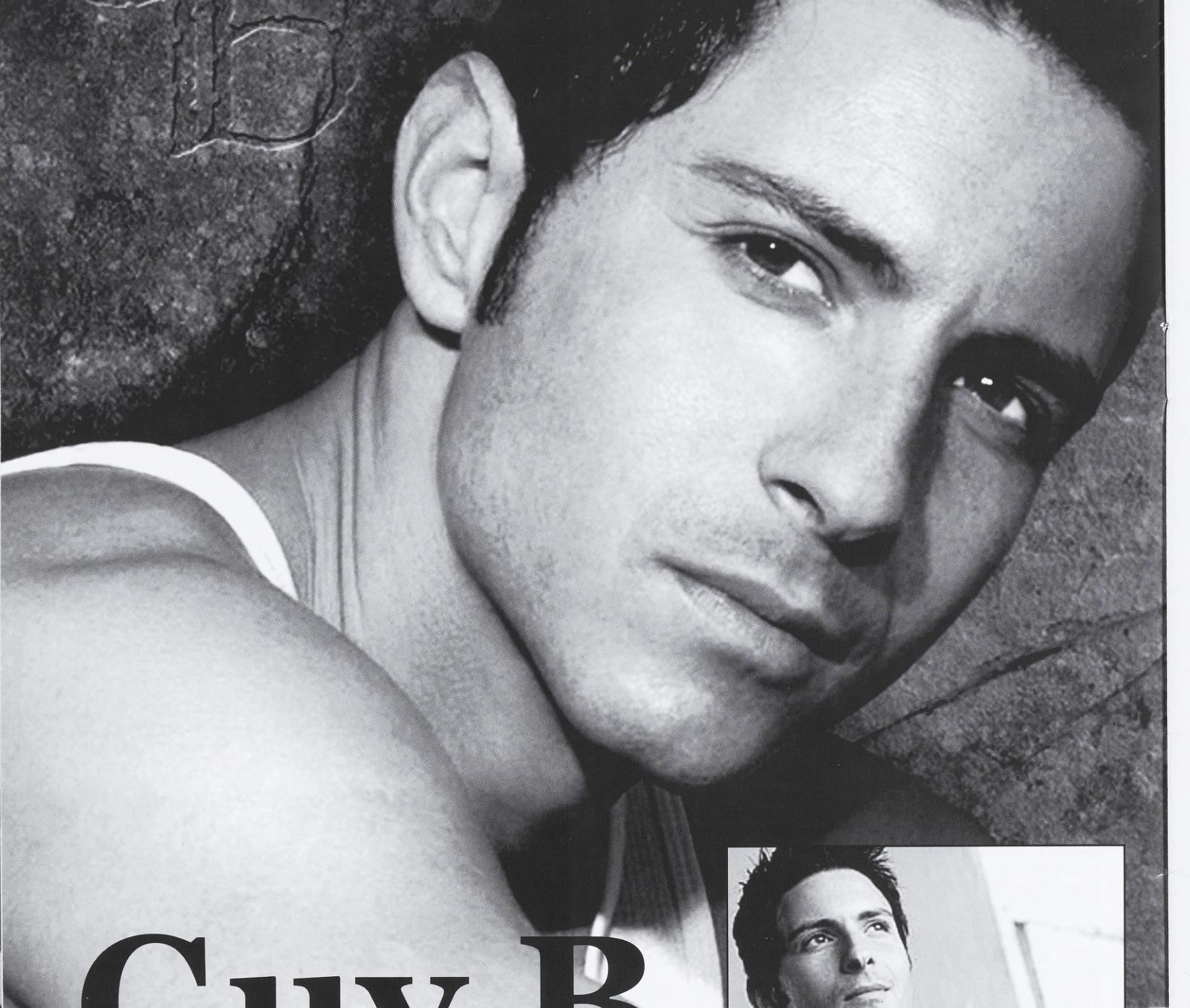
GLEE.com and Music with A Twist

Music With a Twist is the first major record label dedicated to identifying and developing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) artists. It is a joint venture between Sony Music Label Group U.S./Columbia Records and Wilderness Media & Entertainment, the gay media and entertainment portfolio company owned by LOGO founder Matt Farber. Music With a Twist has released two compilations: *L Tunes: Music From and Inspired by The L Word*, and *Revolutions*, a compilation CD that includes the first two artists to be signed to Music With a Twist: *The Gossip* and *Kirsten Price*.

Sony/Columbia was the first major record label to represent the LGBT community. "We are very excited and proud to see these forces join together—GLEE.com and Music With a Twist—to help find and nurture talented new LGBT artists," said Steve Barnett, Chairman and CEO of Columbia Records Group.

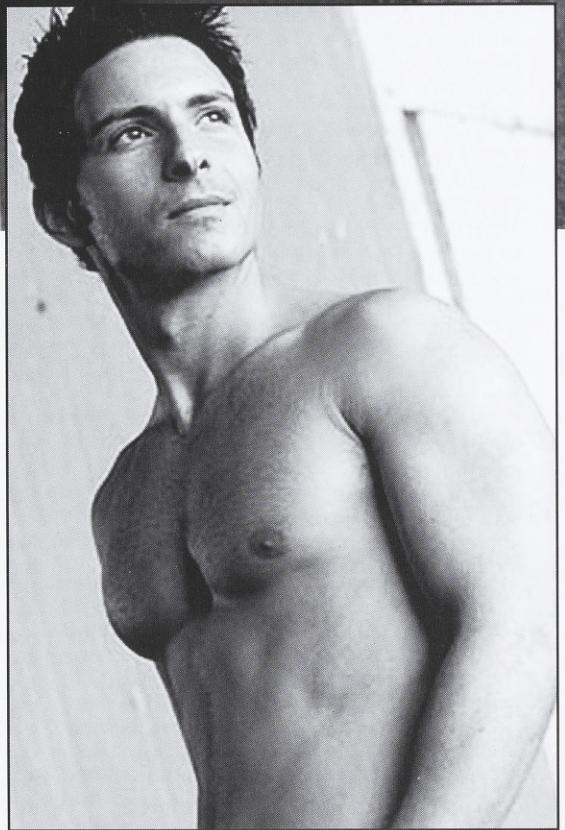
"The gay artists on GLEE.com are coming to the site because they are placed front and center, rather than being buried like they are on other LGBT sites," said Parker Ray, Site Manager of GLEE.com. "Here they are encouraged to focus on their musical talents instead of uphill battles regarding their sexuality. In fact, they are rewarded for their courage to be out."





Guy B

Sexy and sensational singer Guy B. has found success not only with his new video, but with the release of his daring debut CD, *Within Me*



Seldom does a singer come along with the combination of talent, tenderness and brawn possessed by Guy B. His debut disc *WITHIN ME* shows off an artist with an uncommon ability to marry passionate vocals and romantic lyrics to muscular grooves in a totally unique way. Taking his cue from some of the virtuoso pop and R&B talents that have inspired him along the way—artists like Luther Vandross, Brian McKnight, Boyz II Men, Whitney Houston, and Babyface—Guy has created an album that values vocal artistry and ear-catching melodies over the latest pop music fads.

But don't get the wrong idea—*WITHIN ME* is not a nostalgic homage to the past. Songs like the title track, with its up-to-minute beat and unique Middle Eastern influence, will remind pop fans of the state-of-the-art production found on the latest albums from Justin Timberlake, Robin Thicke, and James Morrison.

Born in Israel to parents of Moroccan descent, Guy immigrated to America when he was 3 years old, settling with his family in North Hollywood, California. "I was raised among people of every color, creed and nationality," says Guy about his childhood. "That kind of diversity has truly inspired me to see every human being as equal."

After a childhood steeped in pop and soul music, Guy became the lead singer in a group called Evolution. Writing and performing their own original material, the band was a touring staple all over Northern California. The pinnacle of their career came when they were asked to perform a year-long sold-out gig—5 shows a day, 5 days a week—at Universal Studios in Japan.

Upon returning from Japan in 2004, the members of Evolution agreed to disband, and Guy decided to go out on his own. Building a recording studio in his home, the singer achieved a lifelong dream of writing and recording his own material, songs that he had been quietly working on for several years. The result of Guy's long and arduous hours in the studio is *WITHIN ME*, an extremely personal musical statement that acutely expresses life's myriad joys and sorrow. As an out gay artist, Guy has also transformed the beauty and struggle of his ultimately liberating sexual journey into the uplifting spiritual thread that runs through each song on *WITHIN ME*, particularly the tracks "So What," "Invisible

Wisdom" and "Illusion of Form." Guy's all-inclusive spirituality also informs the pan-sexual, pan-religious themes conveyed in his video for "Within Me." Created by the singer and a talented team of collaborators who have worked in the past with both Madonna and Pink, the video was readily added to LOGO's music video rotation, where it has been a staple for 4 months. The video remains perched in the Top Ten countdown after 12 weeks.

A big fan of the dance remixes, Guy has collaborated with superstar DJ Manny Lehman to produce an explosive remix of "Within Me". The singer's next endeavor will be to shoot the video for second single "So What"; he has already teamed up with DJ Scotty K (who remixed Christina Aguilera's #1 dance mix of "Ain't No Other Man") to create an anthemic house mix of the song. Having opened up for dance queen Deborah Cox at the *Pride Ball*, Guy is looking forward to performing his dance hits at gay clubs around the U.S., as well as several of next year's *Pride* events.

A truly spiritual being, a proud gay musician, and a talented looker with an ear for a killer groove, Guy B.'s star is on the rise. Here, the singer talks about his musical evolution, his sexy image, and the pro's of being an out gay musician.

Q: When did you first become interested in music?

Guy B.: I have always felt a love for music, but I first became interested in making music around the age of 8 years old. Around that time, I remember hearing and watching Whitney Houston sing her head off and, at the time, that was the greatest love that I had ever felt! I know, I know! (laughing) I heard and felt something so deep and powerful through her music and singing.

Q: When and why did you decide to pursue music as a career?

GB: I think the conscious decision to pursue it as a career came when I turned 14 and was able to get a job and afford my own music lessons. I would work at a snack shop making \$4.25 or something ridiculous like that and then spend that money on voice and music lessons.

Q: What has been the highlight of your career so far and why?

GB: In the early 2000's, I was in a boy band for 3 years called Evolution. We spent a lot of time honing our skills, our harmonies, our sound, our production, and our performance. When we were totally ready to make it really happen, the boy band craze was over. 'N Sync and The Backstreet Boys had hit their peak, and no one wanted to hear 4 guys singing together anymore. Fortunately for us, we were seen by a producer of a show that was happening at Universal Studios in Japan. They offered us a contract to do 5 shows a day, 5 days a week for a year. We were in a foreign country getting paid very well and treated like rock stars. The highlight was more about really experiencing the value and honor the Japanese people had for music and for artistic self-expression.

Q: What is special about your album?

GB: My album is my genuine truth. That is what I believe music is about. It connects to people who are open to the message of finding your strength and truth within and ultimately celebrating it. I've receive fan mail from really young people saying that my songs have helped them be more truthful with themselves and their families. That is what is special about my CD.

Q: What does your album/music say about you as an artist and as a person?

GB: My CD tells the stories of what I've been through. It honestly expresses situations and experiences that occurred along with the lessons that I've learned. I went through a place of discovering how much false evidence there was all around. Things that I used to take as face value were questioned. After the breakup of Evolution and a breakup of a personal relationship, I really started questioning what I thought was the truth. What I discovered was "invisible wisdom." In my personal relationship, I had discovered "wandering eyes" and an "unemotional love". So I wrote about it, and through the writing came a lot of answers. The ultimate message is that the answers were not found outside me. I realized that the answers are always "within me."

Q: What kind of image are you trying to convey with your photos?

GB: As with my music, I've always put effort into being honest and having morals, values, and a sense of self-respect. I am a gay guy, and sexuality is a fun and exciting part of my journey, but I don't intend to only appeal to gay men. Gay men are my peeps, and I do feel a connection to their journey because I am going through it as well. But so many different people can relate to that life journey because we all face difficulties that challenge our self-acceptance.

Q: How important is sexiness to your image and music?

GB: Sexiness is very important because it's something to celebrate and have fun with. Part of being an artist is the ability and freedom to express what, unfortunately in a lot of places, is not allowed. I am on tour in Japan at the moment, and a bunch of other artists from the States were just commenting that perhaps the reason many Japanese fans appreciate us as artists is because we are able to express things they cannot. I enjoy my sexuality, and playing with it is fun and appealing.

Q: Have you ever been pressured to stay in the closet for the sake of your career?

GB: When I was in a boy band, I felt that pressure of having to portray a certain image. Now if it ever gets raised I say "So what?"

Q: Does being an out artist hinder your career?

GB: I've been asked that many times, but I really don't know. Being out has fulfilled me like nothing else. I am proud that I set out to be as honest as I can as an artist. Being completely honest absolutely liberates me in every way, not just creatively. It really provides an experience where I connect to amazing people who are of a like-minded nature. That opens up a lot of doors because I think that the true leaders are about that fearless journey. I don't really know what would have happened if I took a different route. I doubt I would be as fulfilled. I think gay artists are at the brink of having a lot more available avenues to expose their music to people. So I like to think that being out has only created more opportunities and possibilities.

For more information log on to: www.guyb.biz

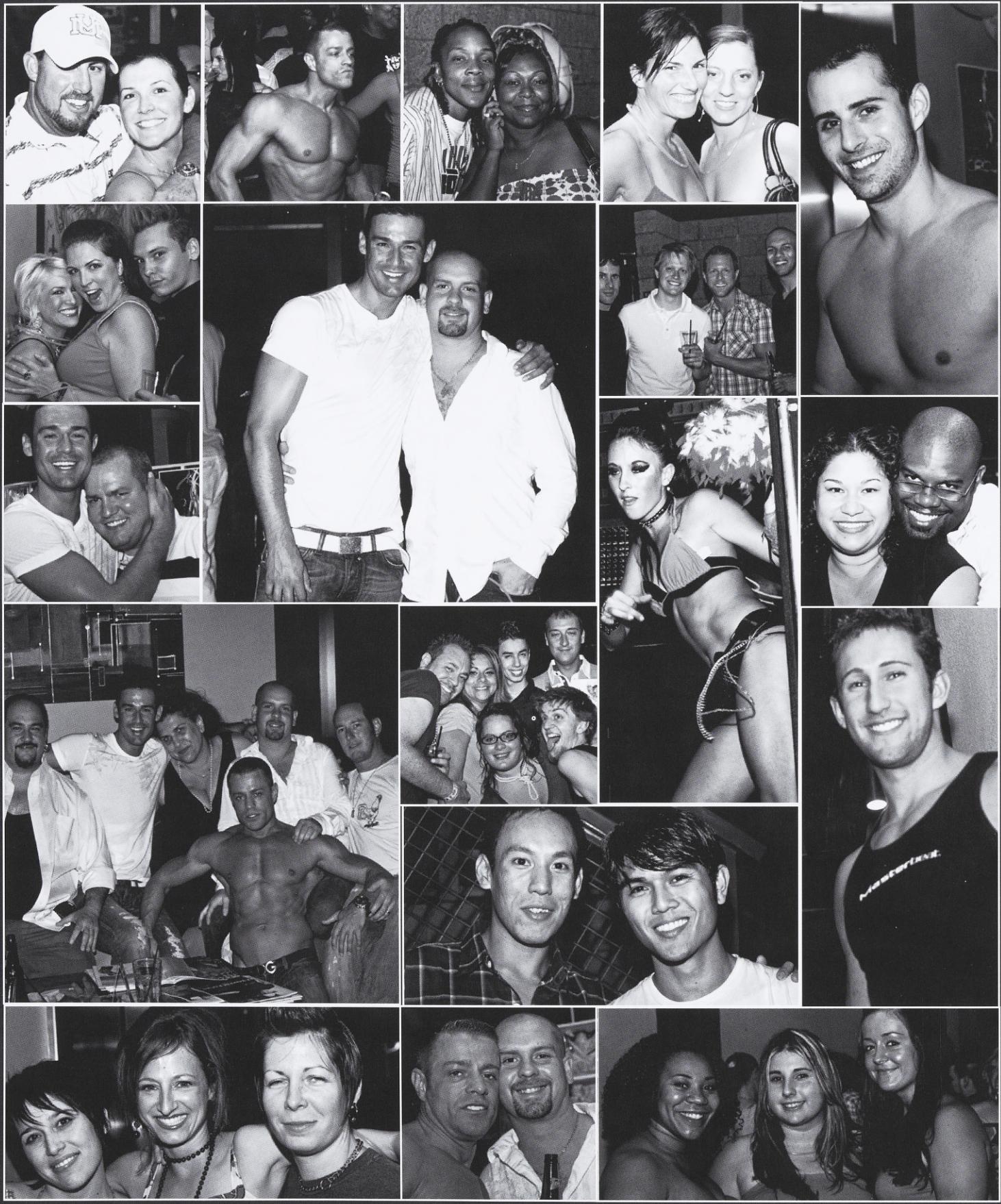
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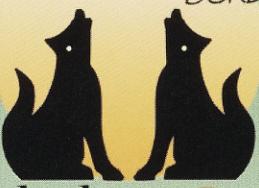
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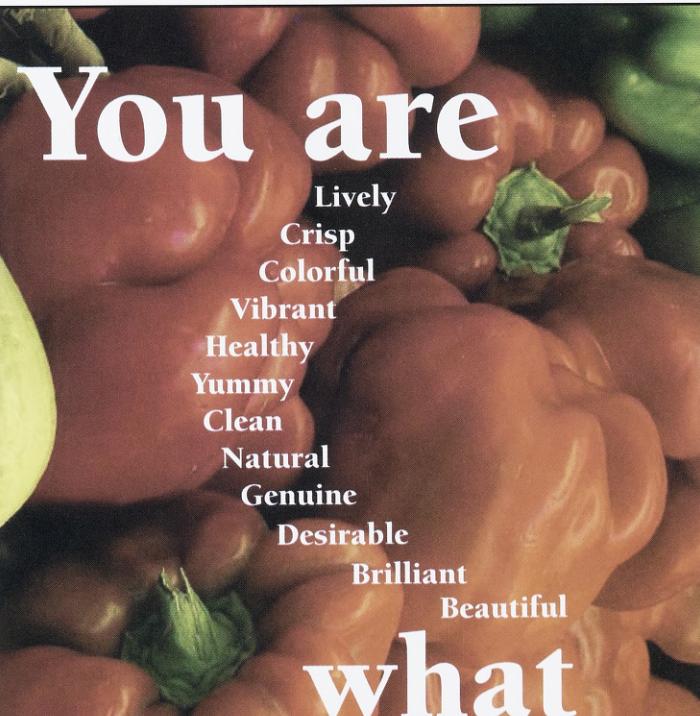
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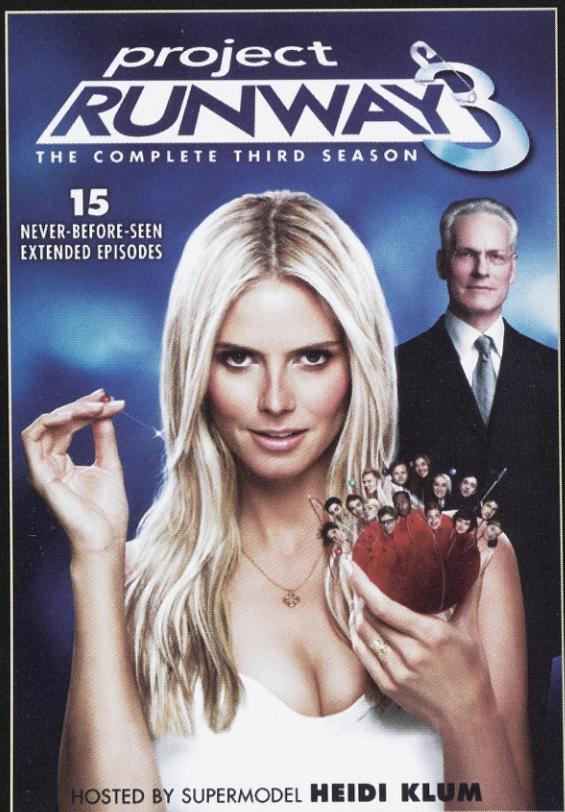
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## Everyone's On Pins & Needles



**T**he Prada of reality shows" (The New York Times), "PROJECT RUNWAY" SEASON 3 will be prêt-à-porter on November 6th when it arrives on DVD from Genius Products and The Weinstein Company.

Hosted by super model and fashion icon Heidi Klum with mentor Tim Gunn, Chief Creative Officer of Liz Claiborne Inc. and formerly of Parsons The New School for Design, "PROJECT RUNWAY" SEASON 3 features an all-new cast of 15 talented fashion designers selected from thousands of hopefuls.

Join Season 3 favorites including edgy, rebellious and controversial Jeffrey Sebelia, free-spirited Uli Herzner, mother of six Laura Bennett, and urban-trend setter Michael Knight and others as they compete for the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to showcase their work in the world-renowned Bryant Park tents during New York's Fashion Week.

Judged by top menswear and women's designer, Michael Kors and Elle Magazine fashion director Nina Garcia, along with a guest judge chosen specifically for each

challenge, relive the intense drama as the contestants' dynamic personalities and creative skills are put to the test to hear if they were "in or out!"

Emmy®-nominated for Outstanding Reality Competition Program, Bravo's "PROJECT RUNWAY" SEASON 3 features a conclave of guest fashion icons including Kate Spade, Catherine Malandrino, Zac Posen, Dian von Furstenberg, among others. The "PROJECT RUNWAY" SEASON 3 DVD features 15 extended episodes with never-before-seen footage as well as bonus features including exclusive outtakes presented by L'Oréal, and more (see below for details).

A series that is ranked as the highest rated show on Bravo TV and a DVD title with increasing popularity, the "PROJECT RUNWAY" SEASON 3 DVD set will be released one week before Season 4 premieres on Bravo on Wednesday, November 14 at 10PM ET/PT. The "PROJECT RUNWAY" SEASON 3 4-disc DVD set will be available for the suggested retail price of \$27.95.

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# New Philip Glass Opera In San Francisco

By Wayne Anderson

Philip Glass's new opera "Appomattox," which saw its world premiere this fall at the San Francisco Opera, goes well beyond the Civil War. While it does begin near the end of the war and vividly portrays Lee's surrender to Grant at Appomattox, Christopher Hampton's skillful libretto also carries the action more than a hundred years into the future to look at the war's effects on our own time. We see the rise of the Ku Klux Klan and the emergence of the civil rights movement in the 1960s. One particularly odious monologue presents the racial hatred of Edgar Ray Killen, convicted in 2005 for the murder of civil rights activists 40 years earlier. The opera is peopled with historical personages: Lee, Grant, Lincoln, their wives, T. Morris Chester (the only black correspondent covering the war for a major northern newspaper), and

many more. In addition to many historically accurate vignettes, we also see the destruction of Richmond and the beginning of the breakdown of civil society as souvenir hunters strip bare the room where the surrender was signed.

Glass has toned down the relentless minimalism found in his early works, eschewing the endless repetition of nearly-identical orchestral phrases. Although the score is still minimalist, we now have a lyrical ensemble for the three wives as well as folk songs of the period, some skillfully composed by Glass in the folk tradition, and one a direct quote of the "Tenting Song," popular among Civil War soldiers. To achieve clarity of the words, the orchestration is often restrained, and most of the vocal line does not go much beyond tonal speaking. Unfortunately this eventually creates monotony. While the

work deals with important issues, it takes more than that to make an important opera. Although there are some very good points to this work, the often-repetitions score does not rise to the level of its subject matter.

The production was excellent. Simple steel and glass sets captured the stark atmosphere of the period, and Grant and Lee looked exactly like their historical photographs. The entire cast was top notch, with Dwayne Croft as the aristocratic Robert E. Lee, Andrew Shore as the uncertain almost apologetic Ulysses S. Grant, Jeremy Gaylon as the troubled Lincoln, and Noah Stewart as the reporter T. Morris Chester. Dennis Russell Davies conducted sensitively.

A routine production of Mozart's "The Magic Flute" returned with cluttered sets from the Los Angeles Opera. Piotr Beczala made a

handsome youthful Tamino, but his pleasant tenor grew pinched at the top and choppy phrasing marred some of his singing. As Pamina, Dina Kuznetsova's creamy soprano became grainy in its upper range. Christopher Maltman's rich baritone made Papageno a virile-sounding bird catcher, and he wisely avoided over-acting. Erika Miklosa had the staccato top notes for the Queen of the Night, but sounded watery in the rest of her range. A hollow bass and indifferent stage presence robbed Georg Zeppenfeld's Sarastro of any hint of nobility, while the Three Ladies were a delight despite their bizarre costumes. Greg Fedderly sang strongly as Monostatos, but his costume made him resemble a pot-bellied version of the Tin Man. After an indifferent start, Donald Runnicles conducted a lyrical performance.



*Swanner & Judd*

Mr. Brooks • Live Free or Die Hard • Hairspray



**Swanner:** The upcoming months are when some of the biggest movies come out on DVD, but usually aren't the movies we like. So we're letting you know what we think are the DVDs to watch for this season. One of my favorites was *Mr. Brooks*. Kevin Costner stars as a reluctant serial killer who is pushed to kill by his imaginary friend played by William Hurt. This movie goes all over the place with solid performances from Demi Moore and Dane Cook. It was fun. I know that sounds strange, but this is a fun serial killer movie and I can't wait to own it on DVD.

**Judd:** I wanted to see *Mr. Brooks*, but I was away. Now that it's coming out on DVD, I'll have my chance. You should also mention that it's coming out on Blu-ray. I'm sure there are one or two lucky readers out there that have a Blu-ray or HD-DVD player—or maybe both! Those that own both and are single and like bear-ish men with piss-poor attitudes can contact me at the magazine.

**Swanner:** Aren't you the sad little man that has to beg for a date through a movie review? Well, to give you more fotter (sic)...you liked *Live Free or Die Hard* and Bruce Willis' character seems forever single so why

don't you tell us about what you thought of the film?

**Judd:** "Fotter"? Or did you mean "fodder"? Maybe the fingers on those trotters you call hands are just a little too pudgy! *Live Free or Die Hard* is the fourth installment of the *Die Hard* series and this one is bigger and more action packed than its predecessors. We find John McClane trying to stop a vengeful hacker from destroying the U.S.'s infrastructure—but that really doesn't matter. What matters is John bull-rides a jet, catapults a police car into a hovering helicopter, and kicks Maggie Q's ass, but only after she gives him a fair beating.

**Swanner:** Talk about fun movies...I was laughing during the movie like I do when I'm on a roller coaster. *Hairspray*, which is the musical version of the John Waters classic, tells the story of young Tracy Turnblad a girl who wants to dance on a local television show. Even though she doesn't quite fit into the "in" crowd she overcomes all to be the star of the show. I loved it and not just because I love musicals. This is the happiest film of the year.

**Judd:** I'm looking forward to seeing *Hairspray* on DVD because I'll be able to turn on the

subtitles and actually be able to comprehend what's being sung. When we saw it in the theater all the singing came out like a bunch of gobbledegook. Damn kids! Get off my lawn!

**Swanner:** Lonely, grumpy and hard of hearing...you're like Mr. Burns—but he can hear. Speaking of *The Simpsons*... how was that for a segue...*The Simpsons Movie* will be coming out before Christmas and you actually liked it.

**Judd:** I did like it. It reminded me of *The Simpsons* back in its mid-to-late 90s writing heyday, when the writing and stories were fresh and cutting edge. The movie puts *The Simpsons* in a quarantined Springfield after Homer pollutes Lake Springfield with a silo full of pig shit.

**Swanner:** You can't say "pig shit" in the magazine—you'll have to call it "pig pooh" or "pig doodoo" but you can't say "pig shit". Here are some of the other good films coming out. I don't remember if you liked any of these 'cause you hate so much it's just easier to just assume you hated them. *Stardust*—a wonderful romantic comedy, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*—an excellent continuation of the

series, *Superbad*—a funny but dirty coming of age film and *Ratatouille*—about a rat that wants to be a chef.

**Judd:** Fine, I won't say "pig shit." I'll say "pig dung". I liked *Stardust*, and if I like a Romantic Comedy Fantasy film, you know it had to have been good. *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* was better than that horrible "Goblet of Fire". I enjoyed *Superbad* and I thought *Ratatouille* is another installment of Pixar's choosing style over substance—a trend starting with *Cars*. Of course, when we saw *Ratatouille* the theater was crawling with children and may have tainted my view.

**Swanner:** I can tell this is going to cost me a lot this season and by the way, Brian, I should be getting my Blu-ray and my HD player before Christmas.

**Judd:** ...I hate you...

*Mr. Brooks* streets 10/23  
*Live Free or Die Hard* 11/20  
*Hairspray* 11/20  
*The Simpson's Movie* 12/18  
*Stardust* 12/18  
*Harry Potter* 12/11  
*Superbad* 12/04  
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## Hairspray • The Simpson's Movie • Stardust • Harry Potter • Superbad • Ratatouille



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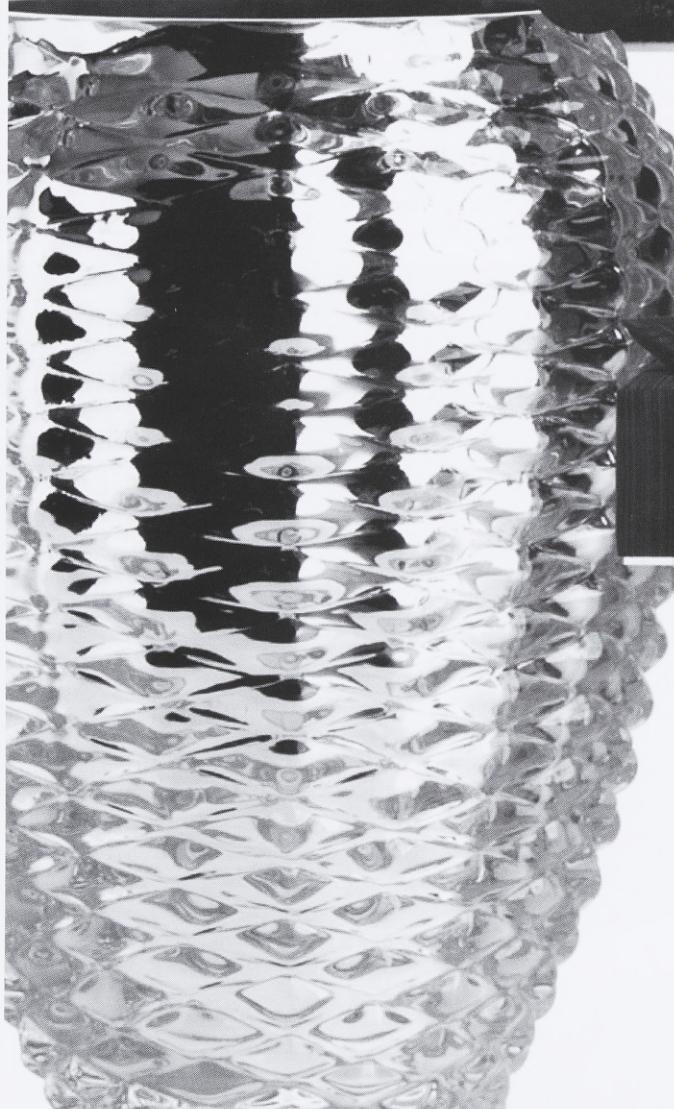
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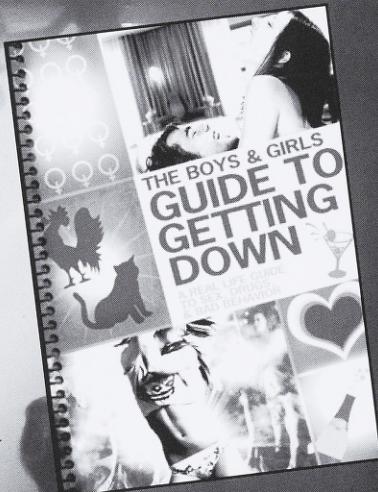
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NEW 08



# The Boys' & Girls' Guide to Getting Down



For all of us who have ever had too much to drink, a one-night stand, illicit substances and a headache the next morning, the movie *The Boys' & Girls' Guide to Getting Down* provides a biting and incisive satirical take on the culture of partying...

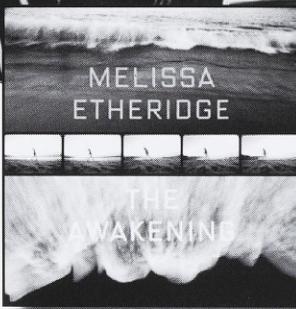
In what has to be the most honest depiction of partying today, writer/director Paul Sapiano presents a fun, no holds barred raucous picture of today's party scene and the people living it! Hailed by *The Boston Globe* as "a visual handbook with a mean streak and some practical use", and by *Out Magazine* as "hipster's nightlife user guide,"

Film Threat called it a "spot-on depiction of modern hipster party life" and "one of the best party movies ever," the film touches on issues such as casual sex, booze hunts, and drug use to provide an insightful parody of everything you might encounter when partying.

Using innovative animation, graphics and tongue-in-cheek scientific experiments, the hip filmmakers present a "how to" guide for the 'party scene' and offer sound advice on how to get in, get down, avoid the moocher, sidestep the drunk, handle the police and generally have the most fun with the least stress. Powerful advice for those Hollywood celebutants who really need help when it comes to getting down and getting away with it.

We are pleased to let you know that *The Boys' and Girls' Guide to Getting Down* will be released on DVD nationwide September 11, 2007. And, we thought you would find this movie fun to spotlight as a must-watch indie for the younger generation!

# MUSIC shelf



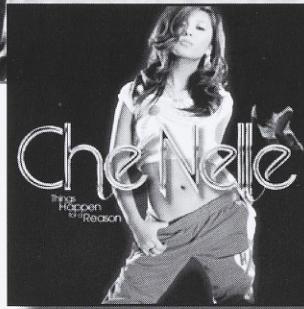
MELISSA  
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There's back to the beginning, and then there's back to the beginning. It doesn't get much more elemental than "All There Is," the brief, swirling invocation of the essence of the universe with which Melissa Etheridge opens *The Awakening*, the ninth studio album of her singular career. Co-produced by Etheridge and David Cole (whose extensive credits include Etheridge's two previous albums, with sparkling play from her band, the album embraces the music and emotions of an artist reaching a new peak. [juniorsenior.dk](http://juniorsenior.dk)



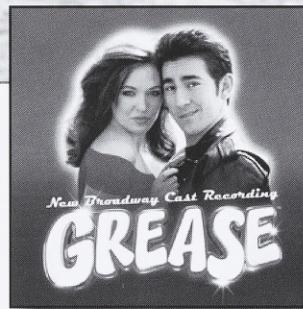
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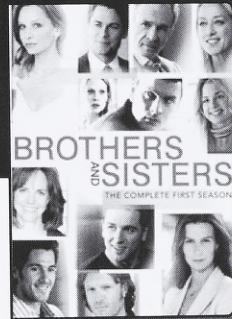
That shoe couldn't fit the artist more perfectly, and the world will dance in it. 'I Fell In Love With The DJ,' the exuberant call to the dance floor by Che'nelle, with a featured vocal appearance by dancehall star CHAM ("Ghetto Story"), is one of the fastest-breaking tunes at mainstream pop and rhythmic radio, bringing both heat and refreshment to the clubs and airwaves of Summer 2007. Major radio noise is already building in New York and several locations in the South. [chenelle-world.com](http://chenelle-world.com)



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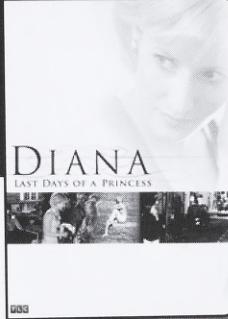
After 12 weeks of nationally televised auditions, 90 million viewers and millions of votes, Laura Osnes and Max Crumm are the ones that America wants to play the iconic roles of "Sandy" and "Danny" in the new Broadway production of *GREASE*™. The two winners were announced during the live finale episode of the NBC talent competition series "Grease: You're The One That I Want" on Sunday, March 25, 2007. [greaseonbroadway.com](http://greaseonbroadway.com)

# DVD shelf



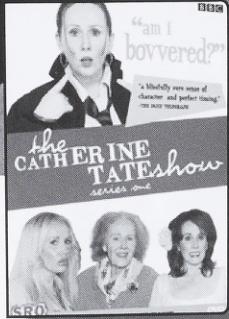
**BROTHERS & SISTERS S.1**  
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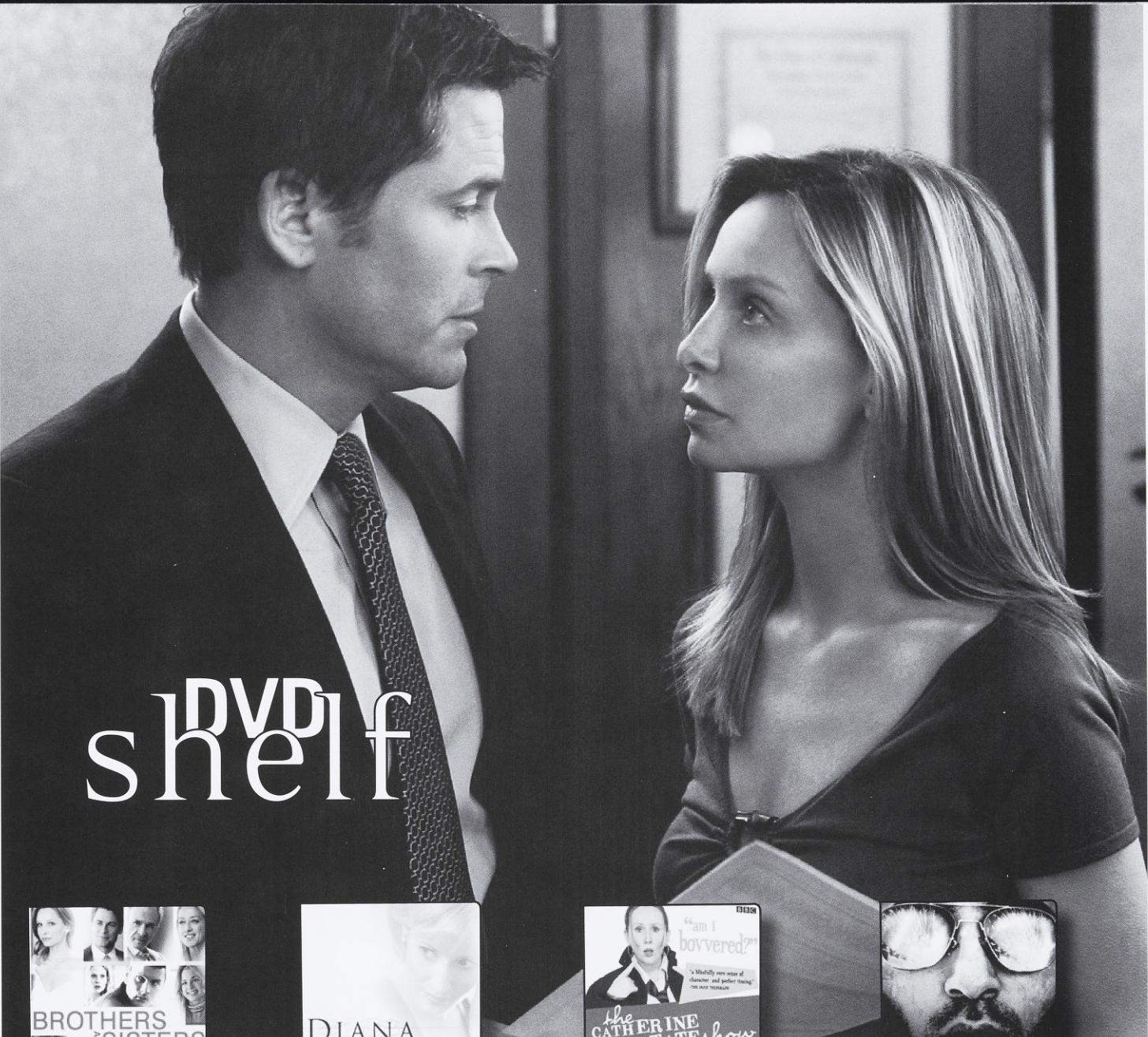
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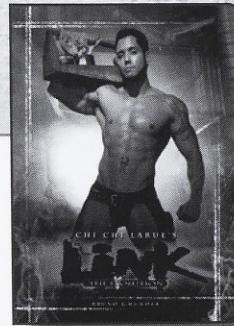
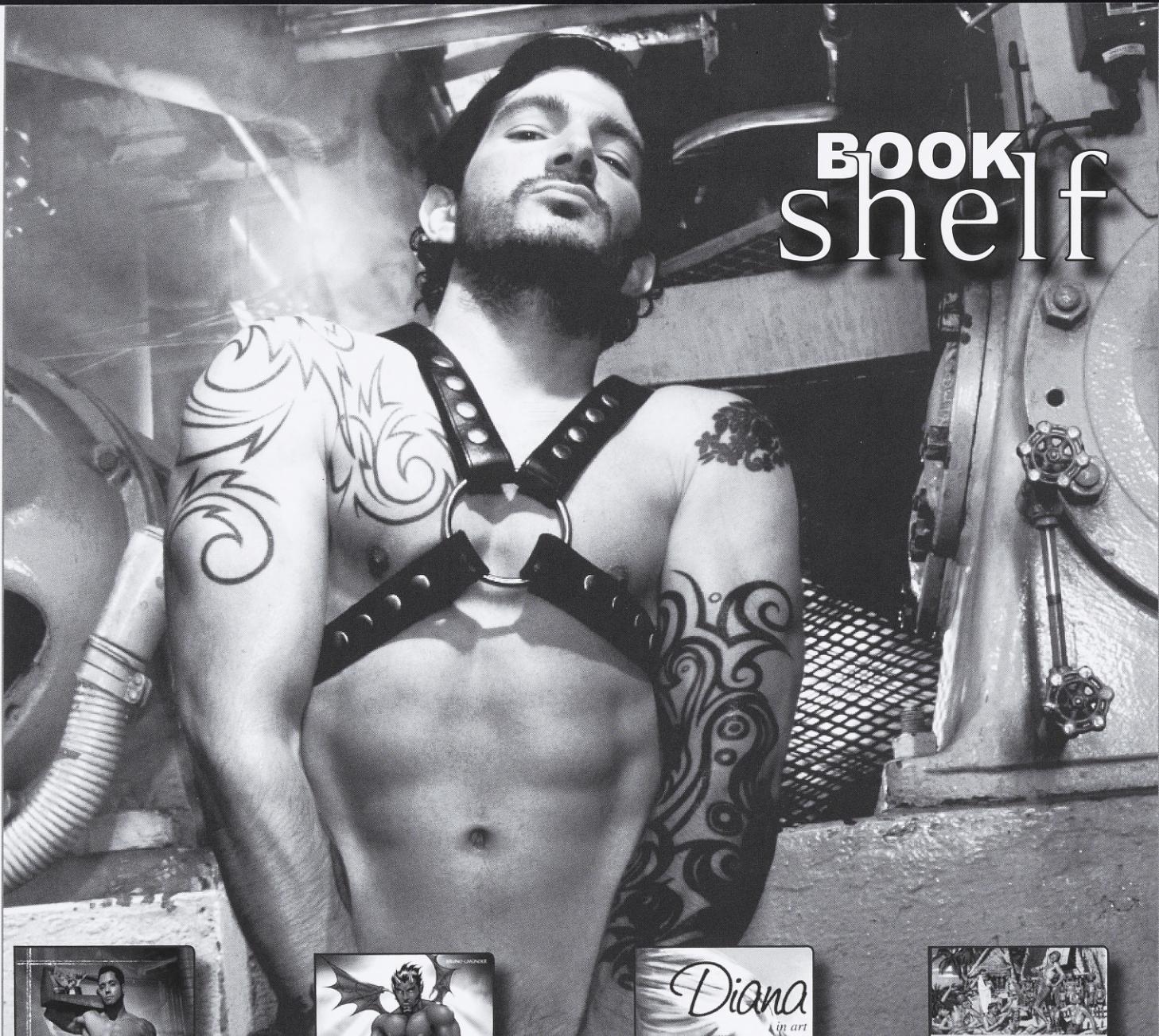


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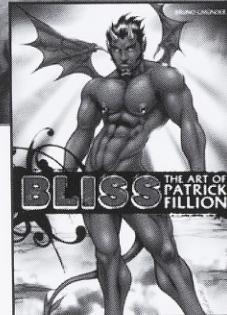


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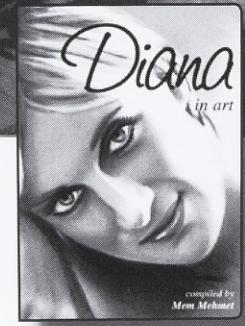
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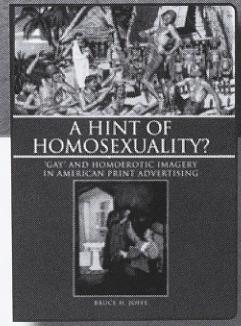
**BLISS**  
**PATRICK FILLION**  
**ISBN 978-3-86187-446-1**

Vampires, aliens, Camili-Cat, Naked Justice and the rest are the stars of this brightly colored comic collection, the perfect compliment to Fillion's previous works. The artist combines the classic genre of American superheroes with elements of fantasy and erotic, while keeping the characters tongues firmly planted in their cheeks, among other places. [patrickfillion.com](http://patrickfillion.com)



**DIANA IN ART**  
**MEM MEHMET**  
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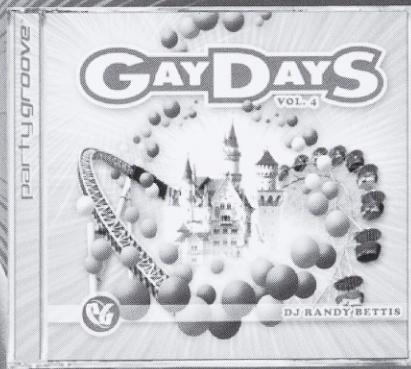
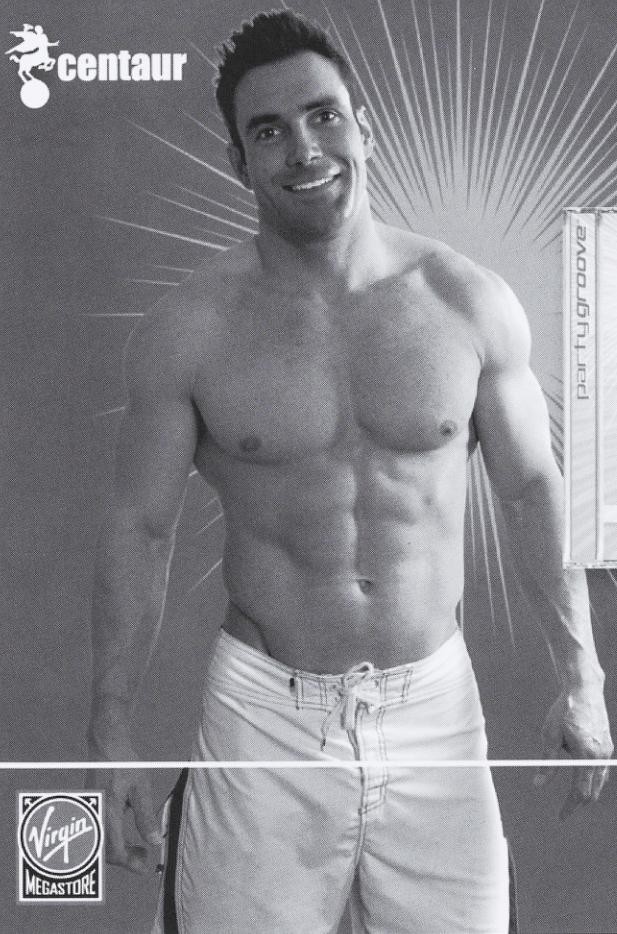
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